

**Andrew Jackson to Rachel Donelson Jackson,
December 14, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew
Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO MRS. JACKSON.

Fort Strother, December 14, 1813

My love: I have recd, your verry affectionate letter of the 3rd. instant, and by Capt Allen who has come out to see his three sons (and certainly a father never was blest with three better) has promised to hand you this. Pressed with mutiny and sedition of the volunteer infantry—To surpress it, having been compelled to arange my artilery, against them, whom I once loved like a father loves his children, was a scene, that created feelings better to be Judged of than expressed. a once conquered foe in front, rallying to give us battle, and a whole Brigade, whose patriotism was once the boast of their Genl and their country, abandoning the service and declaring they never would advance across Cosa again, and to their own eternal disgrace, and that of their country, turning their backs on an enemy fifty miles in advance, when all was wanted was a force to advance to destroy them, has been scenes that has given me much pain and trouble and is for their country to pronounce praise or censure on. one thing is certain, that notwithstanding the officers attempted to lay the blame on the soldiary, the result proved that the officers, and not the soldiers were at the root of the discontent, and when they were put to the Test but one commissioned officer turned out, to support the Eagles of their country and prosecute the campaign. that was old Capt williamson and for this act of Patriotism he was huted at by Colo. Bradly. Capt Allen can tell the ballance. I observe the rascallity of Nollybay. Mr Scott and witworth can prove the contract and his acknowledgement of the debt, I called upon them as witnesses, and if he has a sufficient quantity of cotton in my ginn to discharge the debt of 350 lb of good, merchantable gind Cotton, it must be detained, if he has not let him

Library of Congress

have a credit for what good cotton he has, have him warrented, and Mr Saml Scott and Mr Whiworth summoned as witnesses, have a Judgt for the ballance, and as he has proved such a scoundrel, let him have no indulgence. I have not recd your verry acceptable presents. they will come on in good time. I would to god, I had a place I could bring you to. I would certainly send for you and my little Andrew, and if Genl Pinckney under whose command I am will, direct me to take a stand at any stationary point, for any specified time I will send for you. My heart is with you, my duty compels me to remain in the field whether we will have men enough to progress with the campaing I cannot say, for I fear the boasted patriotism of the State was a mere buble, that expires, on the approach of an enemy, and if I am compelled to abandon the campaign for the want of men, such scenes will be acted on our frontier, that nothing can parralel unless the scenes of the north west and this too after the enemy has been beaten and conquered, and nothing remained but a sufficient force and supply to advance. we have now a prospect of ample supplies of provision, and no troops to eat it. what may be the result time alone can determine my old friend Allen waits this letter if I had time I have many things to say to you. It may not be long before I can either send for you or see you at home. But you know my motto, I know you approve of it—that is death before dishonor. kiss my little andrew and give my best wishes to all my friends and inquiring acquaintance. I shall write you by Colo. Hays if he comes up. May heaven bless and protect you is the nightly prayer of your affectionate Husband.